

GENERAL CHURCH AND ACADEMY K – 12 RELIGION CURRICULUM

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE and VISION

Affirmed by the Religion Curriculum Committee– June 1998

The **purpose** of this New Church religion curriculum is to help students learn, live and love the teachings of the Lord God Jesus Christ revealed in the Old and New Testaments and the Heavenly Doctrine of the New Jerusalem.

The **vision** for fulfilling this purpose can be described by the following broad goals:

BROAD GOALS

1. **The Lord:** To assist students in developing an ongoing and developmentally appropriate affection and understanding of who the Lord Jesus Christ is in their own lives.
AE 803 ...to learn that there is a God, He created all things, He rewards the good and punishes the evil...
2. **The Word:** To foster in students an affection for, a knowledge of and a belief in the Lord's Word and an ability to read it with understanding and delight.
DP 172:6 The Word must be taught mediately through parents, teachers, books, and especially through the reading of it. Nevertheless, it is not taught by these, but by the Lord through them.
3. **Spiritual World:** To foster in students a delight in and a knowledge of the reality of the spiritual world and its divisions.
AC 5135:3 That there is a hell and a heaven, and that the life after death is eternal.
4. **Conjugal Love:** To foster in students an affection for and a knowledge of true marriage.
CL 49 ...internal conjunction which is that of souls (and) constitutes marriage itself (can be) provided on earth ... in the case of those who from early youth had loved and desired and asked of the Lord a legitimate and lovely companionship with one, and had spurned and detested wandering lusts as an offence to their nostrils.
5. **Charity:** To foster in students a developing knowledge of how to live a life of charity and morality and opportunities to practice it.
*AC 2831:1 These truths, that relate to charity toward the neighbor and to love to the Lord, must be learned before it is possible for a man to be regenerated.... They are first implanted therein through parents and teachers: next from the Word of the Lord: and afterwards through the man's own reflection of them...
TCR 443 Everyone learns from parents and teachers to live morally,... and as he grows in years, to add a rational appreciation to these and so to perfect his moral character.*
6. To foster in students an affection for and a knowledge of the important role public and private worship play in their lives.
AC 1798:3 The first commandment is, 'Thou shall worship the Lord thy God'...
7. To foster in students an understanding and delight in the forms and uses of prayer.
AC 5135:3 ...that he ought to pray daily, and this with humility...
8. To foster in students a knowledge of the special church, its role in their lives and an understanding and appreciation for those of the universal church.
AE 313:3 The Lord's Church is diffused through the whole world, but its inmost is where the Lord is known and acknowledged, and where the Word is...
9. To foster in students a desire and an ability to spread the Lord's Word.
ISB 18 ...for what is the use of knowing, unless what is known to one be also known to others?
10. **Divine Providence:** To foster in students a sense of their place in the stream of Providence and an awareness of the Lord's continual provision of their needs.
AC 8455 Peace has in it confidence in the Lord, that He directs all things, and provides all things and that He leads to a good end.

The **strategies** for implementing these purpose and vision statements are contained in each grade level's curriculum.